



# Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

## Monthly Happenings Office of English Learning and Migrant Education

April 2015

Charlie Geier, Rachel Davidson, Nathan Williamson, Bree Ausenbaugh

### Request for AdvancEd Team Members

IDOE and AdvancEd are seeking applicants for Diagnostic External Review Team Members.

IDOE has partnered with AdvancEd, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that conducts rigorous, on-site external reviews of PreK-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential, to offer IN Focus and Priority schools additional support in school improvement planning. AdvancEd will be conducting 17 External Diagnostic Reviews of participating IN schools in September 2015. The External Review process examines the extent which the institution's policies, practices, and conditions, align to the AdvancEd standards, indicators, and performance levels using multiple sources of data and information including student performance, stakeholder perception, school and school system Self Assessments, stakeholder interviews, classroom observations as well as relevant documents and artifacts.

Trainings for team members will take place on June 15<sup>th</sup> (in South Bend) or June 16<sup>th</sup> (in Greenwood). Diagnostic Reviews will take place in September 2015 and will consist of three days of onsite visits to schools with evening meetings.

Lodging and meal stipends will be given to review team members by AdvancEd.

To apply, please [CLICK HERE](#). Applications should be completed by Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Check out these great opportunities for professional development!

- **April 11-12, 2015** *Google Apps for Education Summit*; Franklin, IN. Click [HERE](#).
- **April 12-13, 2015** *IASP Aspiring Principals Conference*; Carmel, IN. Click to [Register Online](#) or use the [Registration Form](#)
- **April 21, 2015** *Global Learning Workshop*; Winona Lake, IN. Contact [cblitzer@doe.in.gov](mailto:cblitzer@doe.in.gov)
- **May 12, 2015** *Global Learning Workshop*; Terre Haute, IN. Contact [cblitzer@doe.in.gov](mailto:cblitzer@doe.in.gov)
- **May 20-21, 2015** *Research to Practice (IEP Resource Center)*; Indianapolis, IN. Click [HERE](#).
- **Summer 2015** *High Ability Language Arts Curriculum Workshops*; Various locations. Click [HERE](#).

### Parent WIDA Reports

ACCESS for ELLs reports will be shipped to school corporations by May 7, 2015. When providing the results to parents, the school corporation **should** utilize the "Sample Letters to Accompany Parent/Guardian Report". The parent-friendly letters explain the results in over 20 languages. See righthand side under Downloads & Products [www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS/](http://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS/)

### Events

Indiana IEP Resource Center is hosting the [Research to Practice Conference](#) on May 20-21, 2015 in Indianapolis. One keynote is Dr. Catherine Collier, who is an expert in English learners & disabilities. Her research and videos are on the [IDOE's website](#). The IDOE will also present sessions on meeting the needs ELs with disabilities to ensure collaboration among services for language and disability.

*Chalkbeat Indiana* is hosting a [panel about English learners](#) of educators and experts on May 6, 2015 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Indianapolis Public Library. The panel will focus on challenges and successes ELs face in our schools.

### In the News

North Central's (Indianapolis) valedictorian, Stefan Stoykov, was highlighted on [WTHR](#) for being accepted into all 8 Ivy League schools. Stefan was an EL that immigrated from Bulgaria when he was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Great job Stefan!

Greater Clark County schools were highlighted in [News and Tribute this past fall](#) for their family literacy program with their families of ELs.

### Academic Language Resource

WIDA English Language Development Standard 1 focuses upon social and instructional language. The Office of Student Assessment has created [Standards and Assessment Vocabulary](#) to highlight terms from our standards that are used in ISTEP+. Contextual, language building activities and exposure to these terms will be important to build academic vocabulary skills under WIDA Standard 1.

### Promising Practice

See the attached Promising Practices Flyer from Warsaw Community Schools regarding their ELs in high ability programming.

# The Push: EL/Honor Students!



Warsaw Community Schools



**WE ARE** Warsaw Community Schools, a rural school system in Warsaw, Indiana, 7300 students grades PK-12, 49% rural poverty.

**OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** are 17% English Learners of the WCS population, approximately 1250 ELs (Levels 1-5), with 33 distinct heritage languages.

**OUR TEACHERS** (classroom and EL) are all trained in the Center for Applied Linguistic, "*What's Different about Teaching Reading to Students Learning English*". Current training for all teachers is the WIDA Standards Implementation. Our corporation has 16 certified EL teachers (EL Certification is required).

**OUR PROMISING PRACTICE** has been to get a comparable number of EL students into honors, dual credit and AP classes at the secondary level.

Our premise...If 17% of our student population are ELs (Levels 1-5), then 17% of our honors, dual credit and AP students should be ELs! However, we discovered in 2012 that only 4% of our EL students were in any type of honors classes.

## OUR STEPS

1. We took a list of all WCS students' (grades 7-12) who were in honors, dual credit and AP classes. We marked the students who were EL (Level 1-5).
2. This gave us a baseline for where we needed to focus our efforts. We began with seniors, but found that they had to be recommended originally by the former grades. We finally found the "gate-keeping" year was when our 6<sup>th</sup> graders enter middle school. If our EL students did not get into honors classes at the beginning of middle school, they never got in!
3. Now each year, the EL program monitors that 7<sup>th</sup> grade honors classes have 17% EL students.
4. EL support is provided in honors classes and in an EL honors study class. In addition, one of our EL teachers is certified in 11<sup>th</sup> grade AP English.
5. Currently, in 2015, our 11<sup>th</sup> grade AP English classes are 15% EL students!!!

## OUR SOURCES

"The kids are great! They are empowered and building their confidence. They are more comfortable asking questions. Now they feel like they belong. We love them!!!"

.....Quotes from Warsaw Community High School Honors and EL Teachers

For more information about our EL program or corporation, email: *Wendy Wildman Long* at [wlong@warsaw.k12.in.us](mailto:wlong@warsaw.k12.in.us).

## *Extended Interview with Wendy Wildman Long*

### **1) What identification methods did you use in order to accurately identify which of your ELs were high ability?**

ELA criteria: 6<sup>th</sup> grade CoGat score (nonverbal for ELs), 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade ISTEP scores, Fountas & Pinnell levels, LAS Links Scores and growth (ELs), EL teacher recommendation.

Math criteria: 6<sup>th</sup> grade CoGat (Quantitative for all and nonverbal for ELs), 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade ISTEP scores, WCS Pre-Algebra Assessment Scores, EL teacher recommendation.

### **2) How did you communicate the need with the staff in your district for making your high ability programming more inclusive of your student population?**

Four years ago, we began conversations with the high school honors teachers about the low percentage of EL students in honors classes, then it led to conversations with the counselors, building principals and ELA and math teachers making the recommendations. The EL department has worked collaboratively with the corporation and now the Chief Academic Officer has set guidelines as a district to include EL students in the selection process. Honestly, it has been a “mindset” change for many educators!

### **3) How you are supporting your ELs that are in high ability classes?**

Our EL teachers and support staff are scheduled into honors classes and work collaboratively with the honors classroom teacher. In addition, at the secondary level (7-12) we offer an advanced ENL class where the honors students work at a high level and receive support. The high school also has what they call “Working Lunch” where students can bring their work to the EL room and get help with homework while they eat lunch.

## *Did You Know?*

Indiana state law IC 20-36-2-2 requires school corporations to have a high ability program plan that includes “student assessments that identify high ability students using multifaceted assessments to ensure that students not identified by traditional assessments because of economic disadvantage, cultural background, underachievement, or disabilities are included”